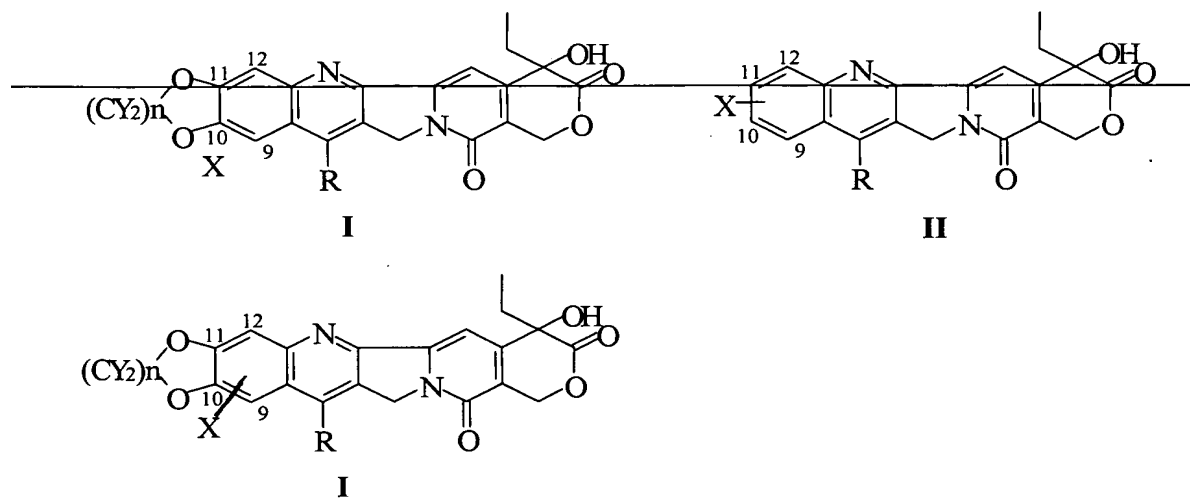


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of 7-substituted camptothecin compounds of formula (I) or (II):



where

X is H, NH_2 , ~~H~~ OH, F, Cl, Br, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, S-C_{1-6} alkyl, NH-C_{1-6} alkyl, $\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl)₂, or C_{1-8} alkyl,

or X is $-\text{Z}-(\text{CH}_2)_a-\text{N}-(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})_2$ wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of O, NH and S, and a is an integer of 2 or 3,

or X is $-\text{CH}_2\text{NR}^2\text{R}^3$, where (a) R^2 and R^3 are, independently, hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy- C_{1-6} COR^4 where R^4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy- C_{1-6} alkyl, or (b) R^2 and R^3 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a saturated 3-7 membered heterocyclic ring which may contain a O, S or NR^5 group, where R^5 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, alkyl, aryl, aryl substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, amino, C_{1-6} alkylamino, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6}

alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkyl C₁₋₆ alkyl C₁₋₆ alkoxy, aryl, and aryl substituted with one or more C₁₋₆ alkyl, or C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkyl groups;

R is C₁₋₃₀ alkyl, substituted C₁₋₃₀ alkyl, C₁₋₃₀ alkenyl, substituted C₁₋₃₀ alkenyl, C₁₋₃₀ alkynyl, substituted, C₁₋₃₀ alkynyl, C₃₋₃₀ cycloalkyl, substituted C₃₋₃₀ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₁₈ aryl, substituted C₆₋₁₈ aryl, C₆₋₁₈ aryalkyl, (C₁₋₃₀ alkyl)₃ silyl or (C₁₋₃₀ alkyl)₃ silyl C₁₋₃₀ alkyl,

Y is independently H or F,

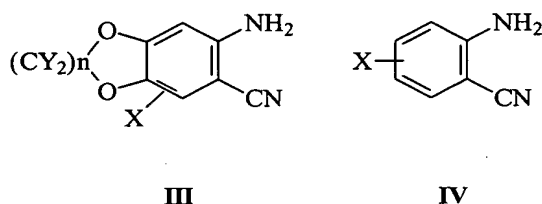
and

n is an integer of 1 or 2,

and salts thereof

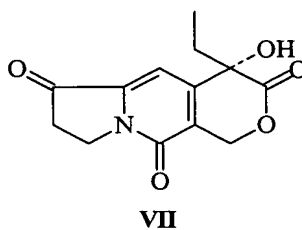
comprising:

i) reacting an ortho amino cyano aromatic compound of formula (III) or (IV)



with an organometallic reagent R -M and

ii) condensing a resulting product with a 20(S)tricyclic ketone of formula (VII)



2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R-M is selected from the group consisting of cyclohexylmagnesium halide, allyl magnesium halide, vinyl magnesium halide, ethyl magnesium halide, 4-fluorophenylmagnesium halide, isopropenyl magnesium halide, isopropyl magnesium halide, methyl magnesium halide, ethynyl magnesium halide, cyclopentyl magnesium halide, phenyl magnesium halide, benzyl magnesium halide, propyl

magnesium halide, 1-propynyl magnesium halide, *p*-tolyl magnesium halide, *o*-tolyl magnesium halide, 1-trimethylsilylmethyl magnesium halide, hexyl magnesium halide, 2-thiophenyl magnesium halide, 4-dimethylaminophenyl magnesium halide, 4-chloro 1-butenyl 2-magnesium halide, *p*-methoxybenzyl magnesium halide, methoxymethyl magnesium halide, and *p*-chloro phenylmagnesium halide, *n*-butyl magnesium halide, *s*-butyl magnesium halide, *t*-butyl magnesium halide and *p*-trifluoromethylphenylmagnesium halide.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said ortho amino cyano aromatic compound is a compound of formula (III), R-M is *n*-butyl magnesium halide, and R⁷ is *n*-butyl.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said ortho amino cyano aromatic compound is a compound of formula (III), R-M is benzyl magnesium halide, and R⁷ is benzyl.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said ortho amino cyano aromatic compound is a compound of formula (III), R-M is *p*-tolyl magnesium halide, and R⁷ is *p*-tolyl.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said ortho amino cyano aromatic compound is a compound of formula (III), R-M is 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide, and R⁷ is 4-fluorophenyl.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said ortho amino cyano aromatic compound is a compound of formula (III), R-M is *p*-chlorophenyl magnesium halide, and R⁷ is *p*-chlorophenyl.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said ortho amino cyano aromatic compound is a compound of formula (III), R-M is *p*-trifluoromethylphenyl magnesium halide, and R⁷ is *p*-trifluoromethylphenyl.

hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkyl, or (b) R² and R³ taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a saturated 3-7 membered heterocyclic ring which may contain a O, S or NR⁵ group, where R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, alkyl, aryl, aryl substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, aryl, and aryl substituted with one or more C₁₋₆ alkyl, or C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆ alkyl groups;

R is ~~C₇₋₃₀ alkyl, substituted C₁₋₃₀ alkyl, C₁₋₃₀ alkenyl, substituted C₁₋₃₀ alkenyl, C₁₋₃₀ alkynyl, substituted C₁₋₃₀ alkynyl, C₃₋₃₀ cycloalkyl, substituted C₃₋₃₀ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₁₈ aryl, substituted C₆₋₁₈ aryl, C₆₋₁₈ aryalkyl, (C₁₋₃₀ alkyl)₃ silyl or (C₁₋₃₀ alkyl)₃ silyl C₁₋₃₀ alkyl,~~

Y is independently H or F,

and

n is an integer of 1 or 2,

and salts thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The 7-substituted camptothecin compound of claim 12, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of ~~cyclohexyl, allyl, vinyl, 4-fluorophenyl, ethynyl, cyclopentyl,~~ phenyl, benzyl, ~~1-propynyl,~~ *p*-tolyl, *o*-tolyl, 1-trimethylsilylmethyl, ~~hexyl,~~ 2-thiophenyl, 4-dimethylaminophenyl, ~~2-(4-chloro-1-butenyl),~~ *p*-methoxybenzyl, ~~methoxymethyl,~~ *p*-chloro phenyl, ~~*s*-butyl, *t*-butyl,~~ and *p*-trifluoromethylphenyl.

14. (Original) The 7-substituted camptothecin compound of claim 13, wherein R is benzyl.

15. (Original) The 7-substituted camptothecin compound of claim 13, wherein R is *p*-tolyl.

16. (Original) The 7-substituted camptothecin compound of claim 13, wherein R is *p*-fluorophenyl.

17. (Original) The 7-substituted camptothecin compound of claim 13, wherein R is *p*-chlorophenyl.

18. (Original) The 7-substituted camptothecin compound of claim 13, wherein R is *p*-trifluoromethylphenyl.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)